

ACOVA
Special Meeting
September 21, 2007
National Guard Armory
Bismarck, ND

Chairman Rudy Jenson called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence

Dean Overby, Department of Veteran's Affairs Sub-Committee Chairman, gave a report on Wally Buckingham and Deans visits to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Office in Fargo. Mr. Buckingham and Mr. Overby had been selected by the full ACOVA committee to review operations in the office and try to get Mr. Hanson and the office staff to resolve their differences and work together in providing services to Veterans. See attached copy of Mr. Overby's report.

Mr. Lee Finstad gave a presentation on the efforts made to resolve issues in the Commissioners Office and what efforts had been made to resolve them. He also addressed a letter from Mr. Hanson resigning as Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Finstad stated that the letter contained inaccuracies and also contained a statement that Mr. Hanson would resign on a date agreed upon by Mr. Hanson & the ACOVA. Mr. Finstad recommended that the ACOVA not accept Mr. Hanson's letter of resignation as it contained conditions that were favorable to the Administrative Committee. He made a motion to remove Mr. Hanson as Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Gary Skarphol seconded the motion.

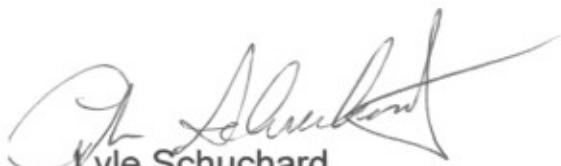
During discussion Mr. Wayne Paulson suggested the letter be accepted. Mr. Carl Bloomquist disagreed with the motion to remove Mr. Hanson. Mr. Jerry Meske asked for specifics about Mr. Hanson's failure to address the problems in the office and whether the State Human Resources Arbitrators had been called back for a second time to work with the Commissioner and the staff.

Mr. Lyle Schuchard explained that the Commissioner and office staff did not have to tell the ACOVA what the Arbitrators discussed or what

solutions they recommended to the Office Staff and Commissioner. The Arbitrators told the ACOVA that they would not divulge any information to them about the interviews with the Commissioner or his office staff. Neither would they tell the ACOVA about any recommendations they make to remedy the situation in the office. They did say they would make a return visit upon a request by the Commissioner if all staff agreed to have them back.

Mr. Dave Hilleren called for the question and Chairman Jenson called for the vote. Secretary Schuchard called the role for the vote. The final vote was 10 yes, 3 no, and 2 Abstentions See attached Voting Record for individual votes.

Chairman Jenson called for a motion to adjourn, motion made by Mr. Overby and seconded by Mr. Finstad.



Lyle Schuchard
Secretary, ACOVA